

to the poor and you shall have wealth in heaven; and come and follow me." Certainly that was a real test. And yet if the young man was dead in earnest he would do it.

Away sorrowful. These words of Jesus must have fallen upon the young ruler's soul with a damp chill which froze all enthusiasm and drove the sunshine from his face. But Jesus had given him a plain answer to a plain question, and he was not willing "to be perfect." As the words fell on his ears, doubtless he thought of the friends the loss of his riches would cost him, the leisure for meditation to be forfeited, the stare of people who would meet him on the street and point their finger at him and say to each other, "Fanatic," the criticism it would bring him, the loss of his position as ruler of the synagogue and the loss of the respect of his acquaintances. And as he faced it all, he was unwilling to endure it. So, turning away, he departed a sorrowful man, "for he had great possessions," and today fills a nameless and forgotten grave.

The great lesson. Jesus turning to his disciples, with the retreating figure still in sight and the cloud which covered the face of the young ruler casting its shadow upon them, said in that sad but impressive way of his, "Truly, I say to you, that a rich man finds it hard to enter the kingdom of heaven. It is easier, I repeat, for a camel to pass thru the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into God's kingdom." How true that is! For the very tendency of wealth is to so claim one's attention that no room is left for higher and nobler things. But how few believe it!

The disciples astonished. The disciples were astonished beyond measure at these words of Jesus and asked, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked on them with his great, deep, loving eyes, earnestly desiring that they know more of God and replied, "With men it is not possible, but when you take into account God's marvelous grace and power, it is easy."

Lesson Applied

- 1 This was the Young Ruler's last chance to have his great question answered.
- 2 But it was answered. The trouble was that he was not willing to accept the answer.
- 3 There is many an anxious soul who would like to be saved, but who isn't willing to pay the price.
- 4 So many want a little of what Jesus has to give but don't want to be perfect. It costs too much.
- 5 Too many people want just enough religion so that they will be comfortable.
- 6 If you keep every commandment and yet offend in one point, you are guilty of all. James 2:10.
- 7 Treasure on earth is still the enemy of "treasure in heaven."
- 8 What were the riches of this young man to him 40 years later when the Roman armies swept down over Palestine and scourged the country with sword, fire and pillage? Or what then in those dire days were friends, and office and respect? Ah, Jesus knows best. And we shall be safe for time and eternity if we obey him.
- 9 This does not teach that every rich man should sell all he has and give it to the poor, but it does teach that it is only a miracle of God's grace which can save a rich man and it does teach that some rich

men can be saved only by giving away their riches. Many of our Brethren would be safer by far, if they would give their wealth to our Publishing House, our Mission Board, or our College.

10 Andrew Carnegie is right when he says "It is a sin for a man to die rich!"

11 It is the one lack that spoils so many Christian characters.

J. L. GILLIN.

FOUNDATION BUILDERS

MARY CHISHOLM FOSTER

The development of character is the greatest work of the world, and the teachers of little children begin it; they lay the foundation which makes a great superstructure possible. Who are these foundation builders? They are the mothers, the kindergartners, the Sunday school teachers, and the public school primary teachers.

The fact that the first work is the important work does not need to be proved, for, since the time of the ancient classicists to this day in the nineteenth century, the assertion of the fact has been made and proofs of the same have been numerous. Yet how slow has been the acceptance of any practical significance of it so that it means to us all that it should mean! What is a part of the work, at once a pleasant duty and a holy privilege, given to the primary teachers in our Sunday schools?

First, it is of importance that they should be in harmony with the other teachers of first principles whom we have named—the mothers, kindergartners, and public school teachers—because all are working for the same children, with the same minds to be guided and developed. It is necessary that all these foundation builders should teach the same great principles, and that as far as possible their methods should be in harmony. It was a conviction with Froebel that a child cannot be educated thru his head alone, leaving his heart at home and in accord with this thought is the statement of Mr. G. Stanley Hall: "Heart culture is needed; the affections must be developed." The primary teacher in the Sunday school is to touch the religious nature of the child, for in later school life the intellectual activities are more directly promoted, and it is before the school undertakes his education that she has her opportunity to guide his moral and religious life. If the work is neglected at this point, the chances are that the lost opportunity may not return, and the child's moral nature may be stunted as a result. She should teach the fact of religion as a force in daily life here, and not merely as a preparation for a life hereafter, because a good life, well lived here in the spirit and faith of the Christ, as a preparation for the life to come, and it is her work to develop what is good and pure in the child. In utter dependence upon the great Teacher, and in perfect abandon of love to him, let her put herself upon the child's plane and begin to develop him.

It may be said that this is a hopeless task in the brief space of the Sunday sessions one day in seven. It is. So the time will come when each Sunday-school will have its six

sessions, five of them to supplement the Sunday work. The church should aid her teachers thus, and I believe she will. In the meantime they may make the best use of the minutes on Sunday, thinking more of the quality than of the quantity of their work.

The teacher should keep to her legitimate work, which a kindergartner and every other true educator will say is the living, vital germ of all teaching: laying the foundation principles of truth in the mind and developing heart culture. In this work the Holy Bible is the text book and the divine Savior is the character ideal. The little children should be led to a personal adoration of him.

Church News

Nappanee, Ind.

The church here is moving along in the usual way. We are enjoying a season of peace. We expect to begin our revival meeting the eighteenth and continue until the twenty-third when we expect I. D. Bowman to be with us and continue the effort. Our sisters made forty dollars on election day boarding the people.

Union Salem is moving along smoothly. We expect to begin a revival meeting December 9.

Cero Gordo is a hopeful class. Three accessions at our last appointment, Sister Mill, from College Corner, Ind., by letter and two from the German Baptists. More to follow. B H FLORA.

Johnstown, Pa.

We are not dead, neither sleeping, I hope, as the continued silence of this church might indicate. The work has been making improvements and the ingathering of the year has been somewhat hindered. There seems to be a very good harvest in prospect and the work for the year will no doubt exceed former years in number of accessions. Three accessions have not been reported, two by letter, and one reclaimed, a young man I had never met in my six years here so he surely needed to come back to Christian work and practices.

We are occupying the new parsonage in the rear of the church and have a most pleasant and convenient home.

The attendance at Sunday school and church services is very good. Moxham is going forward sure if somewhat slow. Having purchased the M. E. church and lot they have succeeded in paying half of the purchase price which is a great victory. They have had the expense of curbing to bear too.

Special meetings will begin at Moxham probably the 25th and the first of the year in the Somerset street church. E E HASKINS.

Pittsburg, Pa.

The Pittsburg church has not been idle, even tho it has had no report in the EVANGELIST for some time. The Lord is blessing us in our work. We have had two accessions since our last report. Our congregations are increasing in numbers, so we have reason to be thankful to our Heavenly Father.

The new building is now almost completed and we hope before many weeks to be occupying it for our services.

We are preparing to hold a supper in the basement of the new building Thanksgiving evening and the evening following, every one is in earnest and working hard to make it a success.

Our pastor is holding revival meetings at Kittanning this week, he was there last week also. God is blessing him and his labors in that place.

Our Sabbath school is in a flourishing condition. It is growing in numbers and in interest. September 29, our superintendent, brother D K Bole, arranged a quarterly conference of the Sunday-school. Topics on the work of building up and improving the school